

Warren, Ohio – U.S. Congressman Tim Ryan (D-Niles) and Governor Ted Strickland today announced a major physical presence for Eastern Gateway Community College in downtown Warren, after continued discussion. The community college began offering classes to the public in September 2009, but lacks the identity associated with a freestanding structure.

“The Governor and I plan to locate the main campus of Eastern Gateway Community College in downtown Warren,” said Congressman Ryan. “This location will supplement the promising development already underway, including the construction of the Warren Green Energy Incubator and the relocation of the Warren Board of Education. It will spur new retail and housing development in the city and provide needed job development during a difficult economic climate. This is a game-changer for Warren. This development will enable downtown Warren to become the center of education, entertainment, and commerce in the city.”

The potential benefits of the community college’s location in downtown Warren are significant. In addition to increasing foot traffic for downtown businesses, the facility will help stimulate private investment in the urban core. The establishment of a downtown campus will foster increased community participation and serve as a significant complement to Kent State University’s Trumbull Campus and Youngstown State University. And, significantly, the development of this urban campus corresponds with the Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Eric Fingerhut’s charge for higher education in Ohio to “redouble its efforts as the growth engine for research and workforce development through expanded educational services for its citizens and redevelopment of its communities.”

“We have witnessed firsthand the impact that a post-secondary institution like Youngstown State University can have on downtown development, and are confident that this project will create similar community partnerships and economic benefits for the City of Warren,” stated Governor Strickland. **“I applaud the initiative of Congressman Ryan and local legislators in pursuing this development and their dedication to the people of this region.”**

Both Governor Strickland and Congressman Ryan believe that providing access to high quality, affordable post-secondary education is a critical component for Ohio’s future. **“Governor Strickland and I are committed to the long-term success of Eastern Gateway Community College in the Mahoning Valley, and we believe that developing a main campus in downtown Warren provides the best option for that success,”** Ryan said.

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